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and modest christain philosopher, he counted and called a conjurer?" It appears that the foolish and superstitious multitude, not contented with verbal abuse, destroyed the large collection of instruments, manuscripts, and printed books, which he had painfully amassed at Mortlake, in Surry, "as belonging to one who dealt with the Devil." T.

Philosophical Magazine, 20, p. 19.

MR. J. FARCY says, I had occasion in the year 1801, to visit one of captain Mudge's stations in the grand Trigonometrical survey, on the top of Quainton-hill, Aylesbury: and being surprised while there, by a considerable explosion, I hastened to the pit, near where some workmen had just blasted a large piece of rock into fragments. On inquiring their process, they assured me they used no gunpowder, but simply undermined the rock for about a yard in length, and half a yard in depth, and introduced a small fagot of brushwood, furze, or a bundle of straw, into the cavity, and set it on fire, and that, in a few seconds, the confined air in the stone, blew up with great force. The fragments of the explosion I had heard were lying about, much the same as they would have been thrown by a blast of gun-powder. I saw in the pit several other excavations forming under blocks of two or three feet thickness, intended to be blasted up in the same manner. T.

Philosophical Magazine, 20, p. 208.

If a person should fall out of a boat, or a boat upset, or he should fall off the quays, or indeed fall into any water from which he could not extricate himself, but must wait some little time for assistance, had he presence of mind enough to whip off his hat, and hold it by the brim,

placing his fingers withinside the crown, and hold it so, (top downwards,) he would be able by this method, to keep his mouth well above water, till assistance should reach him. Indeed, even a swimmer will not hastily go near a drowning person, let him swim ever so well; for with his clothes on, he is fully occupied in keeping himself above water, and dares not risk being seized in a disadvantageous position, by persons devoid of all recollection (arising from their perilous situation) and ready to grasp at every thing that comes within their reach. But if the swimmer could take with him into the water any thing that would support from five to ten pounds weight, he would be able, perhaps, to render assistance, without danger to himself. This desirable object seems to me attainable by the proper use of a man's hat, and pocket-handkerchief, which, (being all the apparatus necessary) is to be used thus:—Spread the handkerchief on the ground, and place a hat with its brim downwards, on the middle of the handkerchief; and tie the handkerchief round the hat, as you would tie up a bundle, keeping the knots as near the centre of the crown of the hat as may be.—Now by seizing the knots in one hand, and keeping the opening of the hat upwards, a person, without knowing how to swim, may fearless plunge into the water, with what may be necessary to save the life of a fellow creature.

But where time and circumstances will permit, various modes may be adopted: as taking two hats and tying the two ends of a walking-stick into the knots of the handkerchiefs, and then seizing the stick by the middle; or, indeed, as many hats may be put on the walking stick as it will hold; which will not be less

than four, giving a buoyancy equal to 28 pounds or more, without the risk of the hats filling with water. If instead of a stick, two hats were connected together by a handkerchief, the hats may be used to swim with, as boys use corks. It often happens that danger is descried long before we are involved in the peril, and time enough to prepare some one of the above mentioned methods; and a courageous person, I am confident, would, seven instances out of ten, apply to them with success; and travellers in fording rivers at unknown fords, or where shallows are deceitful, might make use of these methods with advantage. By experiments I have made, it appears that a common sized hat, such as is now in fashion, will support more than ten pounds weight, without sinking; but with a weight of about seven pounds, it would not be liable to fill, even if there was a little ripple on the water. The handkerchief applied as above directed, covering the open part of the hat prevents it being readily filled by the splashing of the water; and as it is well known that the human body is nearly of the same specific gravity as water, it must be evident that a buoyancy of seven pounds will, if properly managed, keep the head above the surface till more effectual assistance is procured.

HENRY LAWSON,
Philosophical Magazine, 20, p. 302.

T.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

EDUCATION OF THE POOR.

THE Edinburgh reviewers speaking of the illiberal opposition which has been urged against the scheme of Joseph Lancaster, for the education of the poor, very forcibly observe, "how much more enlightened and rational authority have we in the

conduct of the king of England—the patron of the Lancastrian system!—and how noble is the commentary upon it which his own memorable speech to the author of the system affords!—We allude to that exalted saying of his (which we own strikes us as infinitely finer than the celebrated wish of Henry 4th of France) that *he hoped to see the day when every poor child in his dominions should be able to read his bible.*"

This sentiment is indeed noble, and if generally extended would, in process of time, redress many of the miseries of the Irish people—to contribute to this important end is the duty of every true lover of his country, and it is under that impression, I request your insertion of an epitome of the plan of Lancaster, as abridged from an admirable article on the subject of the education of the poor in the Edinburgh review, No. 33, for November, 1810. To those who may not immediately have an opportunity of perusing this valuable article, this brief view of Lancaster's plan may prove not merely amusing, but instructive; the scheme is so clear, and so feasible, that persons of very moderate means may carry it into execution. They will see it reduced to practice at the *daily School*, established by the Quakers, and still chiefly under their direction, in *School-street, Dublin*; and if this sketch contribute to the establishment of similar seminaries in his native country, it will fulfil the heart-felt wishes of its compiler*.

* We have felt much pleasure in recording at different times the schools which have been established in Ireland on Lancaster's plan, and we hope much good will result from the instruction of the poorer classes of the Irish, whose ignorance has been their great misfortune. To a want of consideration, the natural consequence of ignorance, we must attribute many of their errors. The Edinburgh re-